

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, September 21, 2021 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Opsommer,
Wisinski, Sundland, Jackson

ABSENT:

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, IT Director Gebes, Economic Development Director
Clark, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Human Resources
Director Tithof, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Deputy Manager Perry,
Finance Director Mattison, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Styka, is attending remotely from Meridian Township due to health reasons.

Clerk Guthrie is attending remotely from Grand Rapids.

Trustee Sundland is attending remotely from Grand Rapids.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Community Resource Commission Check Presentation

Jordan Munsters, President of High Caliber Karting, presented a check of \$1,583 to Treasurer Deschaine to be put towards Meridian Cares.

B. Citizen Survey Presentation-Cobalt Community Research

William Saint Amor presented the Cobalt Community Research Community Survey. He discussed the results of the survey with board members and answered questions covering Meridian Township's strength and weaknesses.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 6:52 pm.

Charles Barbieri, 5505 Star Flower Dr., Haslett, MI spoke in support of the Daniels Drain Project.

Frank Fugate, 500 S. Park St., Columbus, OH, spoke about Special Use Permit #21-19-121-Woodward Way Limited Dividend Housing Association.

Jim Williams, 4332 Arbor Dr., Okemos, MI, spoke about the Daniels Drain Project

Cecelia Kramer, 4560 Oakwood Dr., Okemos, MI, spoke about the Daniels Drain Project.

Quenda Story, 4526 Marlborough Dr., Okemos, MI, spoke about the Daniels Drain Project.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:00 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh thanked Director Clark for completion of the Citizen Survey. He mentioned two meetings happening this week, one with Consumers Energy on power lines and the other with a developer who's looking at 16 acres at Haslett Village Square in hopes of turning it into Pine Village. Tomorrow the prevailing wage policy of the township is to be litigated in front of Judge Kennedy. The deer Management project starts October 1st, the police department will take it over January 2nd. The township has selected who to move forward with for IT infrastructure, updates will come October 5th. The new website will be unveiled on November 15th. Soon the Board will get together to discuss the use of American Rescue Plan grant funding.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Opsommer

- State Budget passing tomorrow. Senate Bill 82 for reference.
- Meridian Township receiving \$225,000 Grant for Fire Truck.

Clerk Guthrie

- It's Voter Registration Month, Citizens can check their registration status online at the Secretary of State website.
- National Center for Voter Information is sending letters across the nation, they are not from local clerks.
- Attended ribbon cutting for expansion of High Caliber Karting. Thanked Director Clark for her part.
- Attended John Grettenberger Memorial Service.
- Attended the Universal Access Advisory Board meeting last week.
- Met with Cecelia Kramer at Faith Lutheran Church to move two precincts out of Elementary Schools.
- The band SHOWDOWN will be performing live at the Meridian Farmers Market next week.

Trustee Wisinski

- Thanked volunteers that helped with an electronics recycling event last Saturday.

Treasurer Deschaine

- This Sunday is the Autumn Classic, a walk/run around Lake Lansing that benefits Special Olympics Michigan Area 8.

Supervisor Styka

- Attended MSU institute for public policy session. A main topic being population census numbers for Michigan and Mid-Michigan and the effects of redistricting.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka Reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

Trustee Jackson moved that the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Minutes

(1) September 7, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Jackson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of September 21 as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Trustee Jackson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Common Cash	\$	4,275,814.312
Public Works	\$	536,450.63
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>36.77</u>
Total Checks	\$	4,812,301.52
Credit Card Transactions	\$	10,664.21
08/12/2021 to 09/01/2021		
Total Purchases	\$	<u>4,822,965.73</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>458,970.29</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Outdoor Gathering Permit-Friends of Historic Meridian Blue and Gray Event

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the outdoor assembly license for the Blue and Gray event to be held October 1-3, 2021 in the Historical Village Central Park. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Resolution of Declaration and Notice – LWCF Gateway Path and Restroom Project

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the attached resolution of declaration and notice for the accessible gateway path and restroom development project in central park as a grant requirement for funds received from the Land and Water Conservation fund. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Resolution of Declaration and Notice – MNRTF Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the attached resolution of declaration and notice for the central park regional pathway development project in Central Park as a grant requirement for funds received from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Assistance to Firefighter Grant and SAFER Grant

Trustee Jackson moved to authorize the Fire Department to apply for and accept two grants through the Department of Homeland Security. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$600,000 with a 10% matching share of \$54,545.45**
- **Staffing for adequate Fire and Emergence Response Grant in the amount of \$970,031.32 (No matching funds)**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

H. Ratification of New Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter and Part-Time Paramedic

Trustee Jackson moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Joseph Harrison to Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter and Anne Marie Cavalcante to Part-Time Paramedic. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

- I. Change Regular Board Meeting Date of November 4, 2021

Trustee Jackson moved to change the originally scheduled Township Board Regular Meeting date of Thursday, November 4 to Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

- A. Silverstone Estates Streetlighting SAD#427

Supervisor Styka called the Public Hearing to order at 7:14 pm.

Deputy Manager Perry outlined the Silverstone Estates Streetlighting SAD#427

Supervisor Styka closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 pm.

- B. 2021 Order to Maintain Sidewalk SAD#19

Supervisor Styka Called the Public Hearing to order at 7:16 pm.

Deputy Manager Perry Outlined 2021 Order to Maintain Sidewalk SAD#19

Supervisor Styka closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 pm.

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. 2022 Recommended Township Budget

Manager Walsh outlined the 2022 Recommended Township Budget.

Trustee Opsommer moved that the Township Board approve the 2022 recommended budget. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority

Director Clark outlined SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority.

Clerk Guthrie moved to approve the resolution of intent to set a public hearing. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Clerk Guthrie called on Tim Dempsey for questions about the SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority.

Tim Dempsey stated that 90% of the Tax capture collected would be spent in the jurisdiction in which it's collected. 10% of the funds collected could be spent in other participating jurisdictions.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Trustees Sundland, Jackson

NAYS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Opsommer
Wisinski

Motion failed: 3-4

C. Daniels Drain SAD#21 Resolution #1

Supervisor Styka outlined Daniels Drain SAD#21 Resolution #1

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement Special Assessment District No. 21 Resolution No.1; approves the Township Board funding 50% of the Township's share of the Daniels Drain improvement cost from the General Fund, and orders the Department of Public Works to use the plans developed by the Ingham County Drain Commission and prepare a special assessment district for the remaining cost. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Opsommer and Supervisor Styka spoke in support of the township's 50% contribution towards assessment costs. Trustee Opsommer spoke about the residents struggling with recent flooding due to draining issues and heavy rain.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Silverstone Estates Streetlighting ASAD#427 Resolution #3

Supervisor Styka outlined Silverstone Estates Streetlighting SAD#427 Resolution #3

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve Silverstone Estates Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #427- Resolution #3, which approves the construction of the public improvement, the estimate of cost, and defraying the cost by special assessment; determines the special assessment district and directs the making of an assessment roll. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. 2021 Order to Maintain Sidewalk SAD#19 Resolution #3

Supervisor Styka outlined 2021 Order to Maintain Sidewalk SAD#19 Resolution #3

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the 2021 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #19, Resolution #3, which approves repair and maintenance of sidewalk in portions of the following areas: Briarwood, Briarwood #3, #4, #5; East Meadows Condominiums; Heritage Hills, Heritage Hills #2, #3, #4, Ember Oaks, Sunwind Estates; and Sanctuary, which are located in Sections: 8, 32, 33, 34, & 35 and to defray the cost by special assessment; approves the cost estimate of \$25,850.12; determines the special assessment district; directs the making of an assessment roll; and directs notices be sent to the property owners indicating they have 20 days to replace or make safe the defective sidewalk. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Resolution in Recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month

Supervisor Styka outlined Resolution in Recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the resolution in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie Supervisor Styka, Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Special Use Permit #21-19-121-Woodward Way Limited Dividend Housing Association – Modification of Plans to Construct a Building Greater than 25,000 Square Feet

Director Schmitt outlined Special Use Permit #21-19-121-Woodward Way Limited Dividend Housing Association – Modification of Plans to Construct a Building Greater than 25,000 Square Feet.

Director Schmitt discussed Special Use Permit #21-19-121 with the board.

Applicant Frank Fugate was called for questioning by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Opsommer moved to suspend the rules and take action at tonight’s meeting. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve Special Use Permit #21-19-121-Woodward Way Limited Dividend Housing Association – Modification of Plans to Construct a Building Greater than 25,000 Square Feet. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Wisinski, Opsommer, Jackson Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:42 pm.

Mikael Hamel 4134 Benca Way, Okemos, MI, thanked Representative Brixie and Trustee Opsommer for the grant money put towards a new fire truck.

Cecelia Kramer, 4560 Oakwood Dr., Okemos, MI, thanked the board for sharing half the cost of the Daniels drain assessment.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:44 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Taxes are now past due and by law a 1% penalty has been applied. After October 1st another 1% penalty will be applied.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.



RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK